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PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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PLEA OF GUILTY TO IDENTITY THEFT CONSPIRACY

Terrell L. Harris, United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, announced today that on Tuesday, April 30, 2002, Ralph Johnson pled guilty to a single count of an indictment charging him with engaging in a conspiracy to use identifying information such as names, social security numbers, and dates of birth in order to engage in credit card fraud and identity theft. Mr. Johnson was the first of six defendants to be convicted pursuant to the indictment filed February 27, 2002. The remaining defendants, Lucretia Allen, Margie Lewis Wise, Johnnie Allen Lewis, Ronnie Lewis, and Theresa Adams are expected to announce their readiness to proceed with the case on Thursday, May 23, 2002.

Defendant will be sentenced on July 30, 2002 by the Honorable Bernice Donald. Mr. Johnson will face a maximum term of incarceration of five years for his role in using the personnel records of DeRoyal Industries, a business located in Powell, Tennessee, in order to fraudulently obtain and use credit cards from businesses throughout Tennessee and as far north as Connecticut.

The United States Secret Service is investigating the case. Tracy Berry is the Assistant United States Attorney.

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